



THE RARA E-RAG

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RaRa Summer Fun for EVERYONE!

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Vice President, RARA

We kicked off the summer season with the NEW RaRa Hamfest. If my "in box" is any indication of the attendee's sentiment it was a good day! I personally received over 220 e-mails from attendees who "loved" the event. I have posted a few, along with some photos, on the RaRa website for you all to see. For the two or three of you who missed the Hamfest, you missed a great day. You may recall that beginning about a year ago I began writing about how much money the old Hamfest was losing necessitating this change. Well you'll be glad to hear that we exceeded all expectations with the amount of money Hamfest 2009 was able to put back in the bank: We exceeded a 120% return on our investment. Just like the RaRa financial statement the Hamfest information is now available to any member at every club meeting. We've proven the point that change was long overdue, and now we have a great, new, fun event that everyone said they enjoyed. Here's to 2010: We can only imagine...

And on that wave of excitement we have two more events coming up this summer: On **Saturday July 25th starting about noon, we have the [RaRa Family Picnic](#) at Ellison Park.**

We will be firing up the grill serving hot dogs, salads, and all your favorite side dishes! Aside from hearing: "You're 10 over 9 here in Hawaii", what more could you want on a Saturday afternoon? RaRa provides all the Hot Dogs, Rolls, Condiments and Munchies, but if you have a special family recipe you'd like to share, bring it along; we're always anxious to try something new. We're also making this "Hamfest Volunteer Appreciation Day" so, pack up the family and come to the park; have lunch, and take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers who helped save the RaRa Hamfest from certain demise.

On Thursday **August 13th at 6pm we're having the second annual [RaRa Cruise Night](#).** This year's theme is "Ham Sexy". If you don't know what this is... Google it! Whether your vehicle is "Ham Sexy", or you just want to see some that are, come to the Barnard Carnival grounds (we're sure you know where that is now) and check out all the RaRa rides; a prize will be awarded for the "Ham Sexiest" car, truck or cycle. We will be sharing the venue with other, non-ham, auto enthusiasts during their "Classic Car Cruise Night" so you'll also get to see some real street machines, hot rods, and muscle cars from yesterday and today! I probably don't need to remind you, but I will. Those fantastic Barnard Firemen will be cooking all that great Hamfest food for the RaRa Cruise Night... So come hungry!

We'll be back at the Henrietta Fire Station #1 on Friday September 4th. Let's have a great RaRa summer.

[Meet your friends at RARA. Make new friends at RARA.](#)



Come see the Grill at the RaRa Family Picnic – July 25th



RaRa Cruise Night – August 13th

Inside this edition of the RaRa e-RAG:

The Prez Sez.....	2
Public Service.....	3
VE Testing News.....	3
RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago.....	4
RRRA News.....	4
Sidebands.....	4
RDXA Open House.....	5
EmComm Update.....	5
Shorts & Sparks.....	5



The Prez Sez

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
President, RARA

It is with great pride that I take on the position of President of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association. This is a club with some outstanding history and I feel I am at a slight disadvantage having had an amateur radio license for only 41 months. I do enjoy the old stories so keep them coming.

I am excited as I look forward to the next 12 months. The current Board of Directors and Officers is a good mix of young and seasoned hams. There will be many new ideas that will help direct and grow this club in the coming years. Some of those new ideas from last year's Board were put on a temporary hold as we found ourselves having to orchestrate a Hamfest. Those ideas will be on the agenda for this new Board to review along with others. As for the 75th Hamfest please go to the RARA website and click on Hamfest to read what others thought about the event.

Now that we are done feeling good about the 75th Hamfest it is time to start thinking about the 76th Hamfest. We will be looking for more people to serve on the committee for the 76th Hamfest. The goal is to break down all tasks into small manageable pieces so that one or two people are not overburdened. The Board of Directors will be reviewing the task list and have it available for the membership this summer.

As many of you already know I am the Public Service Coordinator for the club and am also involved in another very important aspect of the club. It is important because it relates directly to the growth of our club. It is Volunteer Examiner (VE) testing. If we don't get them tested and get them a license then you can forget about them joining the club.

Why do I bring up VE testing? I am on a recruiting mission. All you need to do is fill out a short form so that it can be reviewed and approved by the testing organization that we belong to. The give back to the hobby is once a month for 2 hours on a Saturday morning and the payback is huge when you get to tell a 9 year old that he passed his test and he only missed one question. I have been known to bring "Timbits" to the Saturday morning sessions. There is no requirement to be at every test session. If you can attend half of the sessions it will be a big help to the entire VE team. If you would like to join the VE team, please contact Ken Hall, W2KRH at ken@w2krh.com and he will get you the form.

This is your club. Let me know what you are thinking, in a nice way. HAVE A SUPER SUMMER!

RaRa Hamfest
Saturday June 5, 2010
At the Barnard Carnival Grounds



SILENT KEYS



Francis J. (Frank) Erhart, KC2EX
May 8, 2009

George D. Walker, W2GDW (KC2EI)
May 18, 2009

New Photos Online

By Len Crellin, KC2PCD
RARA Media Coordinator

You may have seen me wandering around with a camera around my neck at all the meetings this year and many events we also held. Well, you may also find that I have proof to show your spouse that you really were at a RARA meeting and not out fooling around with the guys at a local watering hole!

I have taken hundreds of photos this year and edited them down to the top 45 shots in a new album titled "RARA Activities 2008-2009". To get there, go to our website at:

<http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/index.htm> then click on the link "Photo Galleries". This new album and all the past albums are listed on the left side. Click on the one you want to view and enjoy the photos!

There will be a new album coming after the Hamfest is done, so watch for that one sometime in mid-June.

Hope to see you at some of the summer events like the RARA picnic, second annual "cruise night" or several public service events. If you have some photos you would like to add, send them to me at: kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com and I will add them to the collection.

Enjoy a great summer and see you in my viewfinder soon!

RARA Logo Items

By Jeff Miller, N2AWA
RARA Marketing Coordinator

Hey RARA: It's Tee shirt WX, so make sure our club colors are out there for all to see! RARA has some great items for you, your family, and your shack at: www.cafepress.com/rochesterham. The online store is easy to navigate and offers several attractive items emblazoned with the handsome RARA club logo. Choose from cotton Tee shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies in various colors and sizes, mouse pads, coffee mugs (2 sizes), steins, and caps (2 styles). Where else can you get high quality items at rock bottom prices with the RARA club logo?

If you've never tried it, why not go to the "RARA Regalia" online storefront today and give it a try?

May Meeting Update

By Dave Payne, KA2J

I messed up on giving the BAMA website address. I recommend you go to the Edebris mirror site, as it is quicker and can handle more traffic. You may just want to go to this link:

<http://bama.edebris.com/manuals/>



RaRa Hotline
(585) 671-2424
24 Hours a Day

Public Service 2009

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI
RARA Public Service Coordinator

One of the largest events of the year took place on June 7th. The Tour de Cure is a fundraiser for the American Diabetes Association. They really appreciate the ham radio effort and take good care of us. This year saw 35 ham radio volunteers watching the 5 routes, manning the rest stops, and cheering the riders on. It was a great day and many, many thanks to all who participated.



One new event that will require a Tour de Cure effort is the AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride on September 20th. The start and finish will be in Genesee Valley Park. The long ride is 100 miles which will take the riders down around Letchworth State Park and back north to the finish line. There will be 4 other shorter rides. We have an event captain for this ride and it will need a lot of ham operator support.



Below is the list of events that are being coordinated by local hams. The RARA web site is fully updated for 2009. Go to www.rochesterham.org and click on "Public Service". A complete listing of events and details on each event are there. Click on the "Sign Up" button and fill in the boxes. Highlight the events you like and click on "Submit". I will receive an email with your information and will reply to you acknowledging that I have received it.

Greece Soccer Tournament – Fri thru Sun, July 10 - 12

Walnut Hill Driving Competition – Wed thru Sun, Aug 12 - 16

Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon – Sun, Sept 13

AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride – Sun, Sept 20

Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta – Sun, Sept 20

Bike MS 2009 Pedal to the Park – Sat, Sept 26

Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm – Sat, Sept 26

America's Walk for Diabetes – Sat, Oct 3

Jamboree on the Air (BSA) – Sat & Sun, Oct 17 & 18

NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol – Fri & Sat, Oct 30 & 31

VE Testing News

By Ken Hall, W2KRH
RARA VE Team Leader

At the March 21st regular test session we had 8 candidates, three of whom were granted General class licenses: William Blintz, N2LZK, Craig Connelly, KC2UVZ and Joshua Rodriguez, KC2NPF.

In addition four were granted their Technician license: Alexander Haruk, KC2UWA, Ian Melcher, KD8KOS, Randall Rezabek, KC2UWB and Joshua Rich, KB1SBN.

At the April 18th session we had thirteen candidates, four of whom were granted General class licenses: Brent Hungate, KC2QLJ, David Strong, KC2TJS, John Werner, KC2TNO and James Zelazny, N2NXZ.

In addition nine were granted their Technician license: Jacob Emenheiser, KB3SVQ, Stephen Fell, KC2VCF, Dalton Mitchel, KC2VCG, Ralph Strong, KC2VCH, Christopher Thompson, KC2VCI, Robert Van Sice, KC2VCJ, Chris Werner, KC2VCK, Beth Werner, KC2VCL and Zachary Werner, KC2VCM.

A special session was held on May 26th for the graduates of the RARA license classes. Four became General class licensee's: Anand Choudri, KC2KPG, Stephen Fell, KC2VCF, Randall Rezabek, KC2UWB and Klaus Gueldenpfennig (a RARA Life Member who we all remember as DL7KX) is now KC2VHU.

In addition two were granted their Technician license: Lisa Schramm, KC2VHT and Thomas Webster, KC2VHS.

At the Hamfest test session on May 30th we had 63 candidates test for all three license classes. New calls you may hear on the air around the area include: Roger Feistel, KC2VJM, Michael Gorall, KC2VJO, Matthew Indiano, KC2VJR, Cory Kelch, KC2VJS, Nelson Kibler, KC2VJT, Dawn Lepard, KC2VJU, Nancy Marinucci, KC2JVJ, Benjamin Matthews, KC2VJW, Raymond Mielcarek, KC2VJX, Daniel Weidenbach, KC2VKA, Wayne Rachow, KC2VKB, William Boyd, KC2VJL, Anthony Bianchi, KC2VJK and Andrew Batovsky, KC2VJJ.

I would like to thank all the VE's who assisted in these test sessions; without your help this report could not have been written.

The next test session will be in our usual location, Building 9, Room 3139, at RIT. Testing will begin at 10am on Saturday, September 19th.



RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago: June, 1989

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian



The last program announcement for out-going Vice-President and program chairman Bob Hobday, N2EVG, was an easy one, the annual RaRa picnic, held at Powder Mill park. As was, and is, the tradition, the out-going President does the cooking. In this case it was Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF.

Twenty years ago the ARRL was involved with an upgrade project to modernize the W1AW club station including new transmitting equipment to send code practice and bulletin transmissions. RaRa received an award for making a one-thousand dollar contribution to the project.

Locally, the RF Communications Division of Harris Corporation received the contract to supply new 1 kW solid state transmitters for the ARRL. RF's Production and Test Engineering Manager, Ed Gable K2MP, reported that he had lots of Ham volunteers from within the company wishing to work on the project.

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, wrote encouraging members to join in for RaRa's 1989 ARRL Field Day activity. Keith promised a low key, fun oriented affair with emphasis on public awareness of Ham radio and training. In the same issue Fred Gern, KB2SE, wrote for the RDXA and their FD group with the opposite theme of let's beat the area's current winners; the Band-Dit-Dahs (K2MP) and the other guys at Goz's Gang (K2VCZ).

The recently opened 17 meter band is receiving a lot of enthusiastic users and only months after the opening, ten 17 meter WAS certificates have been issued. I guess that suggests there were at least fifty stations on-the-air.

With regret it was reported that Father Francis Reed, WA2LGV, was listed as a Silent Key. From the Want-Ads you could buy a TR-2400 2 meter HT from John Golden, W2IRG. Heath-Zenith on Jefferson Road remained a long term advertiser

RRRA News

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD

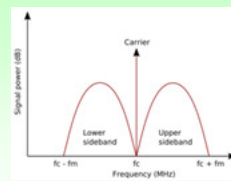
Hope everyone enjoyed the Rochester Hamfest. You couldn't ask for a better day plus we had a bonus with the air show fly overs.

It's June again and time for RRRA's elections. The current slate of officers is Bob Shewell, N2HJD for President, Brad Allen, KB2CHY for Vice President, Joel Rossbach, N2EZV for Treasurer, and Mary Remenicky, KB2WSD for Secretary. Be a part of RRRA's board by adding your name to the nominations. You can help guide the direction of your Club by becoming an officer.

Last month I was a little disappointed because no one brought their projects for me to see. Luckily I brought the K2RRR/R North site receiver that I had just rebuilt. Brad and I worked hard to get this equipment on site for the Hamfest. Anyone using 146.88 at the Rochester Hamfest was being voted through that receiver. Hope you got a chance to see this piece of hardware.

If you come to the elections to support your club please bring your projects for all to see. Hope to see you there.

RaRa Hamfest
Saturday June 5, 2010
At the Barnard Carnival Grounds



Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

Letterman Hams It Up. Long known to ham it up in a colloquial sense, late night comic and talk show host has hammed it up the way we do. A You Tube clip of a 1993 show has been uploaded to You Tube [see <http://tinyurl.com/oyljl6>]. David Letterman interviews the adorable 6-year-old Veronica Harrington, KC6TQR, of Long Beach California, who was visiting New York City. During the segment Veronica demonstrates the use of one of two radios set up on Letterman's desk and has a QSO with Jeanne Myers, ex-N2OVO (now AA2NK) of Brooklyn. Myers was obviously surprised when little Veronica ably handled third party traffic, only to have Letterman pick up the mic to say hello. Veronica was first licensed at age 5. The You Tube clip lasts 6 minutes and is priceless.

NOAA Revises Cycle 24 Prediction. An international panel of experts – led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and sponsored by NASA – has released a new prediction for the next solar cycle: Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a below-average number of sunspots. "If our prediction is correct, Solar Cycle 24 will have a peak sunspot number of 90, the lowest of any cycle since 1928 when Solar Cycle 16 peaked at 78," said panel chairman Doug Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC). This report clarifies a NOAA report from earlier this month that stated that Solar Cycle 24 would bring "90 sunspots per day on average." The latest forecast revises an earlier prediction issued in 2007. At that time, a sharply divided panel believed solar minimum would come in March 2008 followed by either a strong solar maximum in 2011, or a weak solar maximum in 2012. "It turns out that none of our models were totally correct," said Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) and NASA's lead representative on the panel. "The Sun is behaving in an unexpected and very interesting way." Some interesting and provocative scientific reports can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/qdskfm>. **The ARRL Letter and SpaceWeatherCenter.org.**

Ham EmComm Enhancement Act. There is a bill before Congress that directly affects Ham Radio activities, HR-2160, Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. You can download and read the pdf file that describes the bill at <http://tinyurl.com/dkdagv>. And you can track its progress and learn about its sponsors at <http://tinyurl.com/cd6dqb>. You might want to contact your congressional representative. A phone call to his or her local office would suffice. Give the staff member your name, address, and phone number and simply say you want your representative to support HR-2160. You also can go to your representative's website and send a message electronically. These methods are preferable to sending a letter to the Washington office because letter delivery is delayed by security measures.

National Hurricane Center Conducts Test. The annual WX4NHC On-the-Air Station Test from the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami took place on May 30. Prior to the test, Assistant Amateur Radio Volunteer Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, noted that "The purpose of this annual Station Test is to test all of our radio equipment, computers and antennas using as many modes and frequencies as possible. This is not a contest or simulated hurricane exercise. New equipment and software will be tested, and we will also conduct some operator training." Ripoll said that another goal was testing new computers and software, as well as conducting operator training. The NHC Director Bill Read, KB5FYA, was at the center making QSOs. WX4NHC operated on HF, VHF and UHF, plus 2 and 30 meter APRS. Finally the station also operated on the VoIP Hurricane Net.

RDXA Field Day Open House!

By Vic Gauvin, K1PY

Come join us for Donuts & Coffee Sunday, June 28th 9:00 am to Noon. While you're here

- See what it takes to be **National Champions** in the competitive 3A class (we won **#1 in 3A** and were **#4 overall** in the country last year)
- See the 100-foot motorized crank-up tower (thank you Monroe County Office of Emergency Management)
- See the 2-element 40 meter beam on the 88-foot flagpole
- See what it takes to put over 5000 contacts in the log in 24 hours!
-

All this and more, and in your back yard. **RDXA's Field Day** is at Webster Park, just south of the Campground area. **Want to be part of the action? Bring your VHF/UHF gear** and give us a contact! You'll be "1C Western New York" And **you** will have been part of (what we hope will be) another **#1 and Top 10 Field Day!**

DIRECTIONS:

- 590N to 104E
- Holt Road exit, then left (north) to lake
- Left on Lake Road to Campground entrance 999 Lake Rd. (on left)
- South into Campground
- Proceed *past* campground until you reach the site -- you won't miss it!

P.S. Can't make it? You can still take part by working us from home -- you'll be "1D Western New York" for us and any other local FD groups -- see how many you can find!

We'll be W2RDX, plus W2AN on the GOTA station. In the context of this Emergency Preparedness Exercise, if this was an emergency, could you reach us? We'll be CQing on 40 phone Saturday afternoon after 2pm, and again Sunday morning. Or try VHF on the standard VHF/UHF frequencies. Make it a personal challenge -- see how many of your bands and modes you can work us on, and any of the other local FD groups! Good luck!



Shorts & Sparks

By I. M. Zapped, FZZ1POP
Reporting From the Geek Isles

New Issue of Ham-Mag. The June issue of the e-magazine, Ham-Mag, has been published. It includes plans for building a 20 meter QRP CW transceiver by IK3OIL. It also features a neat comm trailer built by W5FTV, as well as plans for building a 28 MHz rubber duck for the Yaesu FT-817. The issue features the fascinating story of Chuck Blaney who was a World War II radio operator and crew on a B-24. He also was a POW in Germany when his Liberator was shot down. Subscription is free at <http://tinyurl.com/7bp6zd> and it is delivered to your e-mail address as a pdf attachment.

Sag Factor. Just how much will that end-fed wire antenna sag in the middle once you put it up? It won't be perfectly flat, of course, but you can calculate the catenary of the wire at <http://tinyurl.com/cscuvq>.

Roll Your Own Balun. It's easy to roll your own 1:1 air balun and Russ Wilson, VE6VK, shows you different methods. You also can see photos contributed by readers of their homebrew baluns at <http://tinyurl.com/uvnt3> and there is a good variety for getting ideas to make your own. Some are downright ugly and others not so unsightly -- but beauty is in the eye of the beholder. They work.

2nd Annual EmComm East Emergency Communications Conference

by Jeff Wigal, WY7Q
Monroe County ARES/RACES

Amateur radio operators pride themselves on the ability to get the message through, "when all else fails" during a disaster. Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (or EmComm) plays an important role in helping disaster relief organizations communicate when land lines, cell phones, and other traditional modes of communication become overloaded or fail.

EmComm East is an ARRL-sanctioned amateur radio emergency communications conference, where amateur radio operators involved in EmComm can attend training sessions on technical topics, learn from served agencies, obtain VE testing for license upgrades, and interact with other EmComm operators from all over the area.

On October 3, 2009, Monroe County ARES will be holding our second annual EmComm East conference at St. John Fisher College. \$30 pre-registration required, continental breakfast and lunch included.

Sign up for e-mail announcements or subscribe to our RSS feed, and we'll keep you informed of new developments in this exciting opportunity!

For more information, visit our website at www.emcommeast.org, or drop us an e-mail at info@emcommeast.org

More Summer Fun: Area Hamfests

1 Aug 2009 Finger Lakes Hamfest sponsored by the Tompkins County Amateur Radio Club. [TCARC Hamfest.](#)
The hamfest will be located at the Trumansburg Fairgrounds on NYS Route 96 in Trumansburg, NY.

1 Aug 2009 28th Annual Hamfest & Computer Show (Batavia Hamfest) located at the Alexander Fireman's Grounds, 10708 Route 98, Alexander NY, sponsored by the Genesee Radio Amateurs.

8 Aug 2009 Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association Hamfest located at the Howard Community Building on Hopkins Rd in Howard NY. [KLARA](#)

15 Aug 2009 56th Annual Rome Hamfest sponsored by the Rome Radio Club, located at the Westmoreland VFD, Station Rd in Westmoreland NY. [Rome Radio Club Web Page.](#)

22 Aug 2009 CNYARA Ham-Jam sponsored by the Central New York Amateur Radio Association (CNYARA), located at the Deerfield Volunteer Fire Dept., 5476 Trenton Rd, Deerfield NY. [CNYARA.](#)

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